

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-10

DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 CEA-02 STR-08 IGA-02

RSR-01 /183 W

----- 062336

R 131245 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3788

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 4343

PASS AGRICULTURE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, IN

SUBJ: WEEKLY FOOD SITUATION

REF: NEW DELHI 3985

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BY CENTRAL AND  
STATE GOVERNMENTS TO INADEQUATE DECREASE TO NATIONALIZE WHOLESALE  
WHEAT TRADE CONTINUED TO ATTRACT MAJOR ATTENTION DURING PAST WEEK.  
WHEAT PRODUCING STATES ANNOUNCED TARGETS FOR DOMESTIC PROCUREMENT  
OF WHEAT TOTALING EIGHT MILLION TONS FROM CURRENT HARVEST.  
GOI REAFFIRMED DECISION TO MAINTAIN PROCUREMENT PRICE OF COMMON  
WHEATS AT RS. 76 PER QUINTAL, BUT AUTHORIZED INCREASE IN PROCUREMENT  
PRICE OF SUPERIOR QUALITIES TO RS. 82 PER QUINTAL. MARKET PRICES  
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OF WHEAT CONTINUED HIGHLY ERRATIC, WITH NUMEROUS REPORTS OF HIGH PRICES AND SCARCE ON NON- AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLIES IN MANY AREAS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN FACE OF MOUNTING OPPOSITION FROM PRIVATE FOODGRAIN DEALERS, CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REAFFIRMED IN PUBLIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS THEIR DETERMINATION TO GO AHEAD WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION CONCERNING TAKE OVER OF WHOLESALE WHEAT TRADE. NOTIFICATIONS WERE ISSUED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BANNING

3. AT 2030 APRIL 8 SIX ROUNDS OF 82 MM MORTAR WERE FIRED INTO TRUNG TAM HAMLET, TRANG BOM VILLAGE, DUC TU DISTRICT, BIEN HOA PROVINCE, SERIOUSLY WOUNDING THREE CIVILIANS. THE TRANG BOM VILLAGE COUNCIL ORGANIZED A DEMONSTRATION AT THE TRANG BOM MARKET ON PARIL 10. ABOUT 500 LOCAL RESIDENTS DENOUNCED COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS AND DEMANDED THAT THE ICCS FORCE THE COMMUNISTS TO COMPENSATE THE VICTIMS. A SEVEN- MAN DELEGATION WENT TO THE ICCS REGION V HEADQUARTERS IN BIEN HOA CITY TO DELIVER A PROTEST.

4. THE BEN CAT ICCS TEAM HAS BEEN DIRECTED BY REGION V TO COMPLETE THEIR INVESTIGATIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY BY APRIL 19. THESE INCLUDE THE ATTACK MARCH 15 ON AN ARVN CONVOY IN PHU GIAO DISTRICT, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE INVESTIGATED TODAY. THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN COOPERATIVE THIS WEEK TO THE EXTENT OF PARTICIPATING IN THE INVESTIGATIONS, BUT HAVE FORCED LATE- NIGHT SESSIONS BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENTS OVER FINDINGS.

5. CANADIAN ICCS SOURCES REPORT THAT THE BEN CAT TEAM, WITH RVN KNOWLEDGE AND PERMISSIGY, ADDRESSED A LETTER LAST WEEK TO THE RPG REQUESTING PERMISSION TO TRAVEL NORTH ON ROUTE 13 ( IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS PARTICIPATING IN THIS EFFORT). A VIETNAMESE CIVILIAN DELIVERED THE LETTER TO A VC CHECKPOINT NORT QOF LAI KHE. THE VC REFUSED THE LETTER, AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER, STOPPED ALL TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD BETWEEN LAI KHE AND CHON THANH.

PART VIII MR 4

1. ENEMY ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA CONTINUED TO RISE APRIL 12  
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WITH 63  
TUVY INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTS. ACTION WAS

HEAVIEST IN CHUONG THIEN, KIEN PHONG AND DINH TUONG. THE VC PARTIALLY DESTROYED A BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY 4 IN WESTERN VINH LONG.

2. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE HONG NHU- CAI CAI AREA CONTINUED APRIL 12. AN ENGAGEMENT REPORTED TO HAVE OCCURRED 20-23 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF HONG NGU DISTRICT TOWN ALONG THE CAMBODIAN BORDER RESULTING IN 11 ENEMY KIA AND NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES CONSTITUTES ONE FURTHER INDICATION THAT ARVN TROOPS IN THE AREA ARE TAKING THE FIGHT TO THE ENEMY. A SECOND ARVN INITIATED CONTACT TOOK PLACE SIX KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF HONG NGU DISTRICT TOWN. WITH ARVN ON THE OFFENSIVE, AND THE SITUATION SEEMING TO IMPROVE, RESIDENTS OF TAN CHAU, ACROSS THE RIVER FROM HONG NGU, ARE SLOWLY BEGINNING TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES.

3. BGEN NGUYEN VAN LAC, MR IV CHIEF OF STAFF, REPORTED THIS MORNING FORCED POSTPONEMENT OF THE TAN CHAU TO PHNOM PENH CONVOY SCHEDULED TO DEPART TAN CHAU AT 0200 HOURS APRIL 13. ARVN 7 TH DIV CLEARING OPERATIONS ALONG THE RIVER CONTINUE. THE CONVOY MAY DEPART AT 0200 HOURS APRIL 14.

4. CANDEL OIC OF THE ICCS TEAM IN VI THANH COMPLAINED THAT THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS HAVE ADOPTED A TOTALLY OBSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THEIR ICCS RESPONSIBILITIES. HE REPORTED THAT THE MEETINGS OF THE TEAM MEMBERS FREQUENTLY ERUPT INTO HEATED ARGUMENTS WITH THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS THINKING UP ANY PRETEXT TO ABSOLVE THE VC FROM IMPLICATION IN ANY GVN REPORTED VIOLATION. FOR EXAMPLE, THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS CLAIM THAT BLOWN BRIDGES COULD HAVE COLLAPSED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND ROCKETED OUTPOSTS WERE HIT BY BANDITS. THE CANADIAN OBSERVED THAT THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS TRY TO DELAY SUBMISSION OF ICCS REPORTS TO CAN THO SO THAT BY THE TIME THESE REPORTS REACH SAIGON THEY ARE MORE THAN FIVE WEEKS OLD. AS A CONSEQUENCE NO ACTION CAN BE TAKEN ON THEM. HE DOES NOT SEE THE ICCS SERVING ANY USEFUL PURPOSE AND HE FEELS ITS MEMBERS ARE RISKING THEIR LIVES WITHOUT ANY MEANS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES.

5. ACCORDING TO THE VILLAGE CHIEF OF LONG DIEN VILLAGE, WHICH IS LOCATED IN THE SOUTHEASTERN CORNER OF BAC LIEU ALONG THE AN  
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XUYEN BORDER, VC MILITARY AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY IS ON THE UPSWING IN HIS AREA. A 60- MAN ELEMENT OF THE U MINH 2 BATTALION HAD SLIPPED ACROSS THE AN XUYEN BORDER AND WAS NOW COORDINATING WITH THE VC DISTRICT LOCAL FORCE COMPANY AND VILLAGE GUERRILLAS IN AN EFFORT TO CONSOLIDATE AND EXPAND VC CONTROLLED AREAS IN THE VILLAGE. THE AREA OFFERS THE GANH

HOA RIVER, WHICH, COULD BE USED AS A SMALL BOAT ENTRY POINT  
FOR VC/ NVA PERSONNEL AND SUPPLIES.

6. CHUONG THIEN SECTOR S-2 REPORTS THAT IN THE PAST WEEK  
AN UNDERTERMINED NUMBER OF FRESH VC/ NVA TROOPS HAVE ARRIVED  
IN THE PROVINCE TO STRENGTHEN THE FOUR VC/ NVA REGIMENTS  
NOW OPERATING THERE.

7. THE 31 ST REGIMENT O  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980114  
**Subject:** WEEKLY FOOD SITUATION  
**TAGS:** EAGR, IN  
**To:** AGR  
BOMBAY  
CALCUTTA  
ISLAMABAD  
LONDON  
MADRAS  
SECSTATE WASHDC

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